

REMARKS

The present Amendment cancels claims 1-4 and adds new claims 5-8.

Therefore, the present application has pending claims 5-8.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Harrington (U.S. Patent No. 5,546,454). As indicated above, claims 1-4 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New claims 5-8 were added directed to a communication system, an exchange and a communication hold control method wherein the communication system includes an exchange and a plurality of telephones accommodated in the exchange.

As per the present invention, each of the telephones includes a transfer instruction accept means for accepting a transfer instruction from an operator, a plurality of common hold operation instruction accept means for accepting a hold instruction and a hold release instruction from the operator and a plurality of display means each provided in association with each of the plurality of common hold operation instruction accept means, each of which accepts the hold instruction and is turned on when a corresponding common hold instruction accept means is operated and accepts the hold release instruction and is turned off when the corresponding common instruction accept means is operated during a turn on state thereof. The exchange includes a transfer control means for a communication partner of one of the telephones under communication and allowing the one of the telephones to request for connection with a forwarding address telephone, in accordance with the

transfer instruction accepted by the transfer function accept means in one of the telephone, hold control means for holding the forwarding address telephone under communication with one of the telephones in association with one of the plurality of common hold operation instruction accept means in one of the telephones and allowing the one of the telephones to request for connection with other forwarding address telephone, in accordance with the hold instruction accepted by the one of the plurality of common hold operation instruction accept means which is not associated with a telephone under holding and a hold release means for releasing the forwarding address telephone under holding and connecting the forwarding address telephone thus released with the one of the telephones in accordance with the release instruction accepted by the one of the plurality of common hold and operation instruction means which is associated with the forwarding address telephone under holding in the one of the telephones.

Unique according to the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims is that the hold control means and the hold release means are provided separately from the transfer control means. This configuration of the present invention makes it possible to place on hold a plurality of telephones at the same time with respect to one incoming call from an external line. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, these features are not taught or suggested by Harrington.

Harrington discloses an automatic call distributor 20 that connects telephone calls received from external telephonic units 28 and internal telephonic units 32A-N

to another internal telephonic unit 32A-N having a plurality of lines. This automatic call distributor 20 automatically places another line on hold state according to key operations for releasing a hold state placed on one of a plurality of lines, these lines corresponding line keys 44A044C of multiple internal telephonic unit 32A respectively. However, Harrington does not teach the hold control means and the hold release means of the present invention.

In the present invention, by providing the hold control means and the hold release means, a plurality of telephones can be put on hold state at the same time with respect to one incoming call from the external line. Specifically, a telephone (internal line) responding to the incoming call from a communication partner (external line) first holds the communication partner, then states a call with a forwarding address telephone (internal line). Thus, according to the present invention transfer communication can be carried out. During the transfer communication, it is also possible for the telephone to hold the forwarding address telephone so as to make connection with another forwarding address telephones. Therefore, according to the present invention, the forwarding telephone can be put on hold state, and more specifically, the transfer communication can be achieved with the other forwarding address telephone without disconnecting the transfer communication with the forwarding address telephone. This effect cannot be obtained in Harrington being that it does not teach or suggest the hold control means and hold release means as now more clearly recited in the claims.

It is quite clear from the above that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the

references of record particularly Harrington whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Thus, the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in new claims 5-8 are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to Harrington.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 5-8 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 5-8 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (566.37037X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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